FDI for Tourism in Himalayan Region

676. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any rules and regulations to control and regulate Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the field of tourism in fragile Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures Government has taken to protect the vulnerable Himalayan region particularly in Himachal Pradesh from increasing infrastructure in sports tourism by putting FDI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Government has permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route in the hotel and tourism sector all over the country. Each State/Union Territory has their own rules and regulations for clearance/approval of infrastructure projects.

Sikkim as International Tourist Destination

677. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is committed to make Sikkim an international tourist destination alongwith the State Government of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the assistance given by the Central Government to Sikkim in developing tourism;

(c) the proposals received from the State Government of Sikkim regarding development of tourism and the status of each proposal including those of infrastructure development required for tourism; and

(d) the time that would be taken to clear all these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

The details of project proposals received from the Government of Sikkim during the current financial Year 2009-10 are given in the Statement (*See* below). Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head of accounts.

Ministry of tourism has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 5590.67 lakhs during the year 2007-08 & Rs. 6678.05 lakhs during the year 2008-09 to the Government of Sikkim for various Tourism projects.